

# ***Austin-Travis County Sustainable Food Policy Board Planning/Tracking Tool***

**MANDATE:** Evaluate and monitor residents’ access to an affordable, diversified local-food supply and recommend measures to improve food security and nutrition.

**Board Goals:**

Recommend policies that facilitate:

- 1) equitable access to healthy food that will end hunger in Austin and Travis County;
- 2) the high availability and consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;
- 3) culture of good food as a fundamental right [local governments help create conducive environments];
- 4) robust and just local economy through the strengthening all five sectors of the food system;
- 5) local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans; and
- 6) preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.

**Food Access and Wellness Area**

**1. equitable access to healthy food;**

<b><i>Policy Objective:</i></b>	<b>Identify and map food deserts and provide incentives and support for grocery stores of different scales, farmers markets, food carts and other mobile vendors to locate and thrive in underserved communities. [Rid area of food deserts]</b>		
<b><i>Working Group Name Purpose</i></b>	<b><i>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</i></b>	<b><i>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</i></b>	<b><i>Policy Outcome(s)</i></b>
<b><u>Food Desert Stakeholder Identification Group</u></b> Assess current efforts in Austin/Travis County and identify relevant stakeholders (e.g. HHSC, USDA, THI, Share our Strength, grocers, existing and proposed co-ops) [What’s happening]	<b><i>Ronda Rutledge</i></b>	<b><i>February 2012</i></b>	<b><i>A thorough hunger assessment to guide the SFPB and others to make policy recommendations around hunger alleviation in the city/county.</i></b>

Updated 3.26.12

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<b>Food Desert Best Practices &amp; Resources Group</b> Research best practices from across US and identify those with potential to open up food deserts in ways that are in alignment with current city/county context [What could happen]			

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Remove zoning and other barriers (ex permits) to the development of small grocery stores and other alternative retail outlets (including farmers markets, mobile veggie carts, etc.) in residential areas [Increase # of alternative retail outlets across city/county]</b>		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<u>Zoning Research Group</u> Work with various stakeholders and a research intern to determine local zoning pertaining to food retail in the city and the county as well as assess other city/county zoning-friendly practices.			SFPB makes recommendations for friendlier zoning requirements that encourage fresh F&V retail, esp. in low income areas of Austin/Travis Co

**2. consumption of local, fresh, and quality sustainably-produced food;**

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Review best practices, current efforts and policies that support getting nutritious and local fresh food to all residents – emphasizing those with difficulty accessing it.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b>Central Texas SNAP Participation Work Group</b> Increase participation in, and impact of, federal food and nutrition programs such as SNAP, WIC, CACFP, Summer Food Program, etc.	<b>Kathy Green</b>		

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Remove zoning and policy barriers and create incentives to improve and rebuild local food production, processing, and distribution systems appropriate to location and scale.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Create local fresh food initiatives in institutions (e.g. schools, colleges, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, city and county departments/venues) and through encouraging food service purchasing policies that prioritize locally-sourced, nutritious, and sustainable foods.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>

**3. culture of good food as a right;**

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Continue to develop and strengthen partnerships with universities and local schools to integrate educational programs with conservation, agriculture and sustainability policies and projects.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Coordinate with the sustainability office, other city and county staff, and local/regional environmental groups to ensure that the issues involved with supporting a sustainable local food system are incorporated in any relevant plans, initiatives, or activities</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b>Imagine Austin Work Group</b> Influence Imagine Austin comprehensive plan process to ensure that the City/County SFPB objectives are included in a clear and comprehensive manner. Understand the Imagine Austin process to enable full stakeholder response and participation in issues important to the City and County relating to food and the local economy.	<b>BrdMbr: M.Murphy-Smith/ Chair: M.Murphy-Smith/Liaison: M.Murphy-Smith</b>		<i>Provide research and policy recommendations throughout the Imagine Austin process to city planners, the Citizens Advisory Task Force, the relevant Planning Commission work group, and ultimately, City Council prior to final approval.</i>

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Improve food and nutrition literacy by connecting and supporting stakeholders and potential partners in establishing effective ongoing nutrition and food preparation educational efforts</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Support social marketing efforts around local (central Texas) food culture based on best practices</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b>Austin/Travis County Buy Local Campaign -</b> bring together stakeholders to design/recommend a city and county buy local campaign that can be co-sponsored by Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners	<b>Marla Camp</b>	June 2012	Recommendation of a Buy Local Campaign to promote the connection between local agriculture/business and residents of Austin and Travis County

**Food Production and Business**

**4. robust and just local food system;**

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>A thorough economic assessment of the city and county food system (including relevant data for all five sectors) in order to Inform policy makers, administrators, and the public at- large about the status of the region's food system and food security and to influence strategic planning.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<u>Food Production Assessment</u> Working from the recently completed Foodshed Assessment, conduct an indepth assessment of production in the region, including a five-county span and up to 150 miles from urban core.			
<b><u>Economic assessment overview</u></b> purpose: A short-term group to discuss option/models, as well as city/county and other resources based on local similar assessments (e.g. cultural arts) and benchmarks of regional food systems-related assessments.	<b>Mbr: K. Nicely /Chair: ? /Liaison: Adam West</b>  participants: City and county-related departments (e.g., ERGSO, HHSD, PARD), researchers/academic institutes, policy, food-related businesses, individual stakeholders, etc. policy outcome:	convene working group in early april to report back to full board in late april or to exec. committee in mid-may	Recommendation of potential model(s) and funding sources as well as benefits to pass onto policy makers.
<u>Local Food Economic Assessment</u> A thorough economic assessment of the city and county	<b>Mbr: K. Nicely /Chair: ?</b>	Begin Step 1: Mar 2012	

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food system (including relevant regional data for all five sectors) in order to inform policy makers, administrators, and the public-at-large about the status of the region's food system and food security, as well as influencing strategic planning. Step 1: Look at Best Practices in other cities.	<b>/Liaison: Adam West</b>  <b>Participants:</b> Lewis Leff Katie Whitehouse	<i>Board Report:</i> August 2012	

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Assess potential resource recovery for farmers and residents inherent in the wastage/surplus of food in Austin/Travis County.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b>Food Surplus &amp; Salvage Working Group</b> Clarify existing policies as they relate to food surplus and salvage activities and expand the capacity for food to be safely delivered to its highest and best use (1. Humans 2. Animals 3. Compost), and none to the landfill.	<b>Mbr:?</b> <b>/Chair: Brandi Clark</b> <b>/Liaison: Adam West</b>		

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Support and establish diversified and specialized distribution and processing businesses and mechanisms for sustainable foods produced locally.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name</b> <b>Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<u>Distribution/Processing Assessment Group</u> Research national models that are working in other communities for processing facilities that are assisted via incentive monies from the city/county for food production.			SFPB makes a city/county budget recommendation for slaughterhouse and other local processing facilities to make keeping food local more affordable for food producers.

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Measures that will improve existing local food production and add new – or scale/change existing – programs, incentives, projects, regulations, or services to support local and regional farms including tailored small business support and encouraging the consumption of local food in public education campaigns.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b><u>Austin Resource Recovery Connection to Stakeholders Work Group</u></b> Provided means for collection of stakeholder response to questions from the City’s Waste Management Office	<b>BrdMbr: Paige Hill /Chair: Paige Hill Liaison: Adam West</b>	Completed [date]	Provided means for collection of stakeholder response to questions from the City’s Waste Management Office

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<b><u>Food Systems Policy Capacity Building Work Group</u></b> To identify specific city and/or county codes, permits, variances, policies, programs, and/or procedures that will facilitate the creation and success of new (or existing) local food retail businesses (e.g., compact urban groceries, cafes, food trailers, green carts, coops), particularly those that source locally and/or sustainably produced foods and locate in areas with limited access. The working group will then make suggestions to SFPB to recommend to relevant policy makers.	<b>P.McDemott/ Chair - TBD (possibly member of Congress for New Urbanism) Liaison: Adam West</b>  Participants: Existing and potential food businesses, retailers, city/county staff, researchers, related organizations and individuals, specifically those familiar with	<b>Convene: April 2012 1st report to SFPB Exec. Committee - June Recommendations to SFPB - July</b>	Implementation of new policies/procedures or programs by city and/or county and system of data collection on metrics to measure success of said policies/procedures and or programs.

Updated 3.26.12

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Foster local capacity to help implement food systems-related recommendations and plans.</b>		
	code/planners.		

**5. the preservation of agricultural land and family farming in Austin and Travis County.**

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Assess the availability of land suitable for sustainable agriculture in Austin and Travis County, and compile best practices for leasing/managing public and/or private lands to make related recommendations for preservation.</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<u>Urban Agriculture Work Group</u>	<i>BrdMbr: P.McDermott /Chair: P.McDermott Liaison: Adam West</i>		

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Define “Local or Regional Food System” range for Austin and Travis County (default 300 miles)</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>

<b>Policy Objective:</b>	<b>Minimize barriers to agricultural water access and create a comprehensive water conservation strategy for food producers in Austin and Travis County that serves as a catalyst for multi-county initiative</b>		
<b>Working Group Name Purpose</b>	<b>Board Member/ Chair / Area Liaison</b>	<b>Begin Date/ Board Report(s)</b>	<b>Policy Outcome(s)</b>
<u>Water Sustainable Use and Conservation Work Group</u>	<i>Brdmbr: K.Kraemer /Chair: K.Kraemer Liaison: Adam West</i>		